GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Wildlife preservation department is ill equipped to conduct raids or to protect the various wildlife sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to equip the department with arms etc. to conduct raids or to protect the wildlife properties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 378 `PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES` DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.8.2003.

(a) & (b) Poaching and illegal trade in wildlife has become highly organised and wildlife offenders use sophisticated weapons and equipment. As compared to this, the wildlife protection staff in the States is ill-equipped in terms of both modern weapons and other equipment for conducting raids and protecting wildlife inside and outside the Protected Area.

(c) & (d) Protection of wildlife including conducting raids to curb wildlife offences is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments for conservation and protection of wildlife which, inter alia, includes procurement of weapons and other equipment. The financial assistance provided in this regard to the State Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

SCHEME	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	2479.98	2342.07	3694.00
Project Tiger	1910.88	1834.83	2879.90
Project Elephant	636.85	775.04	939.00